

A NEW EARTH

199 would write to the papers, or sign letters written for him,
423 saying the people were against these schemes. And so some of
665 us became confused. In this location we still wanted to
exchange land, but some of our neighbours turned against
it, and we had to stop.

'At the end of 1958 the opposition became very strong and
the D.C. called a meeting to decide. The opposition staged
another trick. They packed the meeting with supporters from
other locations, even women who knew nothing about it at
all. This was a noisy and a difficult *harag*. Even with these
methods, when it came to a vote the meeting was evenly
divided. The casting vote was left to the D.C. He decided
against it, and so the scheme was closed.

423 'We who had always been in favour were greatly harmed.
We wanted the Government to bring water from the river,
and surveying had already started for a pood scheme. Some
of the elders went to the D.C. to ask him to change his mind,
but he refused. In January, he agreed to send two people to
Elgon Nyanza to see what was being done here. They saw it
all, and when they returned we elected *ligu* after the pattern
of the Elgon people. We called everyone together in groups,
men, women and children, to plant hedges round the *shambar*
that had been exchanged. I myself exchanged four pieces,
and in some cases I paid money and cattle to get all my land
in one piece. We managed to plant hedges round two or three
shambar a day. Then we went to the D.C. and told him what
we had done and asked him to send an officer to help us plan
the use of our *shambar*. When he heard what we had done, he
agreed.

• (245) 'Now we have enclosed all the land of our clan and we want
to have it registered. We asked the D.C., but there were still
six men who refused, and the D.C. would not do it until
everyone agreed. In the last few days two more have agreed,
so now there are only four against it. When they agree we
shall have titles to our land and then no one can upset the
work we have done.'